

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**March 2012 – Week 5**

**Air Date: March 25 – March 31 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: BIRTHPLACE OF TEXAS IN FLAMES**

MARCH 1836 AND THE BIRTHPLACE OF TEXAS IS NO MORE.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MARCH 30, 1836. SAN FELIPE. AFTER THE FALL OF THE ALAMO, SAM HOUSTON AND HIS ARMY ARE IN FULL RETREAT EASTWARD.

WHEN HE ORDERS HIS MEN TO ABANDON SAN FELIPE, STEPHEN F. AUSTIN'S OLDEST SETTLEMENT, SOME REFUSE AND STAY TO DEFEND THE UNOFFICIAL CAPITAL.

BUT WHEN THE MEXICAN ARMY ARRIVES, CAPTAIN MOSELEY BAKER SETS THE PLACE ABLAZE, IGNITING A CONTROVERSY.

BAKER SAID HOUSTON ORDERED HIM TO BURN THE TOWN. BUT HOUSTON DENIED IT THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

AFTER THE FIRE, SAN FELIPE NEVER RECOVERED. WHEN THE RAILROAD BYPASSED IT IN THE 1870'S THE TOWN DIED. TODAY ABOUT 800 RESIDENTS REMAIN.

SAN FELIPE WAS BURNED 176 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hls10>), accessed March 15, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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